

Cc: Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; larryrader@mecx.net[larryrader@mecx.net]; Foster, Althea[Foster.Althea@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: Williams, Laura
Sent: Sat 9/12/2015 11:02:38 PM
Subject: FW: Clarification regarding Previous Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I've received several calls requesting clarification of the previous email regarding turbidity in Cement Creek. The following provides additional detail regarding this event. I appreciate your patience as we work to improve our notifications so they are more informative as to the concerns or risks associated with an event. – lw

This was a "Notification Only" Alert Level per the "Gold King Mine Stakeholders Alert and Notification Plan." This alert level is for "an identified non mine-site related event affecting Cement Creek or the Animas River that will not pose a physical or safety concern for the downstream users, but may be perceived as a negative event by stakeholders, public, or the media."

The EPA Gold King Mine Site Team noticed a small amount of turbidity in Cement Creek from upstream of the mine site late this morning. The team walked the creek for a short distance but was not able to identify a source for the turbidity. At the time of my previous email notice, the turbidity had largely dissipated and the stream was clearing. Turbidity is generally the result of particles within the water such as clay, silt, finely divided inorganic and organic matter, algae, microscopic organisms or, near mines, precipitated metals. Depending on the type of particle causing the turbidity, the concerns are different. Most often, microorganisms such as e. coli or giardia can cause gastrointestinal disease. For precipitated metals, these are relatively stable forms of a metal that have solidified out of the water and are relatively non-toxic unless inhaled or ingested in large amounts or repeatedly over a longer period of time.

It is unlikely that the turbidity remained in the river for any significant distance (less than a hundred feet) and would not be a concern or risk to any downstream users such as the Navajo Nation.

Sincerely,

Laura Williams

From: Williams, Laura

Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2015 1:15 PM

To: 'Alan Bacock (a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org)'; 'Alexa Sandoval (alexandra.sandoval@state.nm.us)'; 'Allison Majure (Allison.Majure@state.nm.us)'; 'Bonnie Hopkins (bhopkins@nmsu.edu)'; 'Bruce Conrad (sjcsoconrad@yahoo.com)'; 'Butch Knowlton (knowltonbk@co.laplata.co.us)'; 'Butch Tongate (butch.tongate@state.nm.us)'; 'Cornelius Antone (Cornelius.antone@tonation-nsn.gov)'; 'Greg Lovato (glovato@ndep.nv.gov)'; 'Harlan Cleveland (hcleveland@navajo-nsn.gov)'; 'Jason Sawyer (js9@azdeq.gov)'; 'Jay Mitchell (Jay.Mitchell@state.nm.us)'; 'Jeff Witte (jwitte@nmda.nmsu.edu)'; 'Jeffery Smith E. P. (JefferySmith@usbr.gov)'; 'Jim Donovan (oem@sanjuancountycolorado.us)'; 'Jose Angel (jose.angel@waterboards.ca.gov)'; 'Kathy Gurule (kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov)'; 'Kim Carpenter (kcarpenter@sjcounty.net)'; 'Lela Hunt (Lela.Hunt@state.nm.us)'; 'Leo Drozdoff (ldrozdoff@ndep.nv.gov)'; 'Leslee Bechtel (leslee.bechtel@azdema.gov)'; 'Lianne Jollon (LJollon@sjbhd.org)'; 'Marcie Bidwell (marcie@mountainstudies.org)'; 'Maria Dadgar (info@itcaonline.com)'; 'Matt Rodriquez (mrodriquez@calepa.ca.gov)'; 'Misael Cabrera (Cabrera.misael@azdeq.gov)'; 'New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (nm.eoc@state.nm.us)'; 'Nina Chester (ninaachester@navajo-nsn.gov)'; 'Patrick Pfaltzgrapp (Patrick.j.Pfaltzgrapp@state.co.us)'; 'Robert Stewart (Robert_f_stewart@ios.doi.gov)'; 'Ron Leblanc (ron.leblanc@durangogov.org)'; 'Ron Loven (Ronald.loven@state.co.us)'; 'Rose Whitehair (rmwhitehair@gmail.com)'; 'Russell Begaye (russellbegaye@navajo-nsn.gov)'; 'Ryan Flynn (ryan.flynn@state.nm.us)'; 'Scott Clow (SCLOW@UTEMOUNTAIN.ORG)'; 'Terry Hoecker (terry.hoecker@durangogov.org)'; 'Thomas Buschatzke (tbuschatzke@azwater.gov)'; 'Thomas Johnson (tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov)'; 'Tom Blaine (Tom.Blaine@state.nm.us)'; 'Tom McNamara (Thomas.mcnamara@co.laplata.co.us)'; 'Trais Kliphuis (Trais.Kliphuis@state.nm.us)'; 'Trevor Denny (Trevor.Denney@state.co.us)'; 'Walt Baker (egaddis@utah.gov)'; 'Wendy Smith-Reeve (wendy.smith-reeve@azdema.gov)'

Cc: Grantham, Nancy; Gray, David; Dunkelman, Tom; Foster, Althea; Ostrander, David

Subject: Standby Notification of Turbidity in Cement Creek

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At approximately 11:45 this morning, the EPA Gold King Mine Site Team noticed turbidity in Cement Creek. The turbidity emanates from somewhere upstream of the mine site; however, a source or cause could not be identified. Please call if you should need any additional information.

Laura Williams, Unit Leader

Emergency Response Region 8

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